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August 24, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Section 63.71 Application of Verizon New York Inc.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Verizon New York Inc. submits the enclosed Application for authority under Section 214(a) of the Communications Act and 47 C.F.R. § 63.71 to discontinue four legacy interstate DS0 services in multiple wire centers<sup>1</sup>.

Sincerely

Enclosure

cc: Department of Defense Chief Information Officer

Governor of New York

New York Public Service Commission

<sup>1</sup> These legacy voice and low-speed data services are Voice Grade Service, WATS Access Line Service, Digital Data Service, and DIGIPATH Digital Service II. A list of affected wire centers is included in the Application at Exhibit A.

# Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
Section 63.71 Application of Verizon New	)	
York Inc.	)	
	)	
For Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of	)	
the Communications Act of 1934, As	)	File No
Amended To Discontinue the Provision of	)	
Service	)	

#### SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION OF VERIZON NEW YORK INC.

Verizon New York Inc. ("Verizon") submits this Application for authority under Section 214(a) of the Communications Act and Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules to grandfather and discontinue four legacy interstate DS0 services in multiple wire centers. Today, there are relatively few customers still using these products, as customers continue to migrate away from these older services toward more modern options. Given the low numbers of subscribers and high costs of supporting these services, we plan to grandfather these services on or after December 15, 2017, in the specified wire centers. At that time, no new customers will be added but existing customers will be permitted to continue to submit orders for moves, adds, and changes. We plan to stop permitting or accepting orders for moves, adds, or changes on or after July 1, 2018; we plan to discontinue the services completely on or after September 2, 2019.

Customers in these areas are being migrated to all-fiber facilities in a multi-stage process. Many customers have already made the decision to move either to our fiber-based services or to competitors' services; others are in the process of transitioning. During this transition, we have been working closely with our customers receiving service over copper facilities to discuss their

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These legacy voice grade and low-speed data services are Voice Grade Service, WATS Access Line Service, Digital Data Service, and DIGIPATH Digital Service II. A list of the affected wire centers is included at Exhibit A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Modifications in service offerings for customers with existing contracts are subject to the terms of their contract or of the tariff.

existing services and their needs going forward. For the vast majority, there has been a like-for-like, fiber-based service available for them, making this transition straightforward. This is the case for customers purchasing plain old telephone service (POTS) from us. These POTS customers will continue to receive the same POTS over fiber at the same or better price, and there is no change in the underlying features and functionalities in their service. For those customers purchasing broadband Internet services over copper facilities, Fios Internet will provide them far more than they are getting today. Notwithstanding the greater speed and reliability they will experience, our offerings for these customers will also include comparable pricing. Similarly, customers can continue to buy DS1 level services as they do today, just over the more reliable fiber network.<sup>3</sup>

However, there are a small number of legacy interstate special access services—Voice Grade Service, WATS Access Line Service, Digital Data Service ("DDS"), and DIGIPATH Digital Service II—which no longer serve a substantial need for the majority of our customers. These services are outdated legacy voice grade and data transmission services that have largely fallen out of favor as customers have chosen new options and technologies. Today we have approximately 10 wholesale customers and approximately 150 retail customers on these services in the affected areas. Given the decreased demand for these outdated offerings, we plan to grandfather these services on or after December 15, 2017, preventing new customers from ordering them. At that time, existing customers may continue to submit orders for moves, adds or changes. We plan to stop permitting or accepting orders for moves, adds, or changes on or after July 1, 2018, and to discontinue the services on or after September 2, 2019.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Higher bandwidth services are today already regularly provisioned over fiber facilities and customers will continue to be able to buy them.

Consistent with Section 63.71(a) and (b) of the Commission's rules, Verizon provides the following information:

## 1. Name and Address of Carrier (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71 (a)(1), (b)(2)):

Verizon New York Inc. 140 West Street New York, NY 10007

## 2. Date of Planned Service Discontinuation (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(2), (b)(2)):

Subject to the Commission's authorization, on or after December 15, 2017, Verizon will stop accepting orders from new customers for Voice Grade Service, WATS Access Line Service, Digital Data Service, and DIGIPATH Digital Service II in the affected wire centers.<sup>4</sup> At that time, existing customers may continue to submit orders for moves, adds or changes. We plan to stop permitting or accepting orders for moves, adds, or changes on or after July 1, 2018, and to discontinue the services on or after September 2, 2019.

## 3. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(3), (b)(2)):

Subject to the Commission's authorization, Verizon intends to discontinue the aforementioned services in the wire centers listed in Exhibit A.

## 4. Brief Description of Type of Service Affected (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(4), (b)(2)):

The services at issue here are all legacy voice grade and very low-speed data transmission services. Specifically, the four services here are:

Voice Grade Service uses dedicated lines to provide voice frequency transmission capability for connecting location-to-location or to the public network. Voice Grade Service terminations transmit in the nominal frequency range of 300 to 3000 Hz. It may be terminated as analog two-wire or four-wire. Voice Grade channels are provided between customer-designated

3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Please see Exhibit A for a list of the affected wire centers. Subject to the Commission's authorization, Verizon intends to file tariff revisions to effectuate the changes requested in this application.

premises or between a customer-designated premise and a Verizon hub. Voice Grade Service is further described in Verizon's FCC Tariff No. 11, Sec. 7.2.3.

WATS Access Line Service provides voice frequency transmission capability for toll free calling in a limited geographic area. The service provides a customer-premise-to-customer-premise connection with the combination of WATS Access Connection, a dedicated channel between the customer's end user's premises and a WATS Serving Office equipped with a Switched Access Service arrangement. WATS Access Line Service is further described in Verizon's FCC Tariff No. 11, Sec. 7.2.10.

Digital Data Service provides duplex transmission of synchronous serial data at 2.4, 4.8, 9.6, or 56 Kbps. The actual bit rate is a function of the channel interface selected by the customer. Digital Data Service is further described in Verizon's FCC Tariff No. 11, Sec. 7.2.8.

DIGIPATH Digital Service II is a channel for the simultaneous transmission of digital data at the rate of 2.4, 4.8, 9.6, 19.2, 56, or 64 Kbps. The actual bit rate is a function of the channel interface selected by the customer. DIGIPATH Digital Service II is further described in Verizon's FCC Tariff No. 11, Sec. 7.2.11.

Alternative Services and Products: Customers today can obtain alternative services and products from Verizon or other providers that perform the same functions as these services.

Verizon's alternative wholesale products and services include Wholesale Advantage or Resale,
Fiber to the Internet Service, Transparent LAN Service (TLS), Private Internet Protocol Service,
and DS1 Service. Verizon's alternative retail products and services include fiber-based voice
services, Fios Internet, Switched Ethernet Service, Private Internet Protocol Service, DS1
services, machine-to-machine services, and LTE. Verizon will work with affected customers to
find suitable alternative solutions.

5. Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers (47 C.F.R. § 63.71 (b)(3)):

Verizon sent notices to customers that currently subscribe to the affected services by U.S. Mail on or before August 24, 2017. Copies of the notices are attached as Exhibit B.

Verizon is sending copies of this Application by first class U.S. Mail to the governor and public utilities commission for each affected state as well as to the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer, as required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's rules.

6. Regulatory Classification of Carrier (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(b)(4)):

Verizon is classified for regulatory purposes under the Commission's rules as dominant with respect to the services to be discontinued.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Verizon respectfully requests that the Commission approve this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Litland

William H. Johnson *Of Counsel* 

Katharine R. Saunders Roy E. Litland Verizon 1300 I St NW, Suite 500E Washington, DC 20005-7101 (202) 515-2464 (Office)

August 24, 2017

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on or before this twenty-fourth day of August 2017, I caused to be served a copy of the foregoing Section 63.71 Application by U.S. Mail postage prepaid to the following parties on the attached service list.

Roy E. Litland

Roy Litland

## **SERVICE LIST**

Honorable Kathleen H. Burgess Secretary to the Commission New York Public Service Commission Empire State Plaza Agency Building 3 Albany, NY 12223-1350 The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo Governor of New York NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224

Department of Defense Chief Information Officer Attn: Military Asst/Mobility Team The Pentagon Washington, DC 20301

## **EXHIBIT A**

AVENUE U	115TH AVENUE OZONE PARK	
EAST 79TH STREET	71ST STREET	
EAST 97TH STREET	AVENUE R	
SOUTH STATEN ISLAND	AVENUE Y	
WEST 36TH STREET	BAYSIDE	
BRIDGE STREET	BUSHWICK AVENUE	
BROAD STREET	CONVENT AVENUE	
WEST 73RD STREET	CRUGER AVENUE	
WEST STREET	EAST 150TH STREET	
EAST 30TH STREET	EAST 167TH STREET	
EAST 37TH STREET	FAIRVIEW AVENUE	
LONG ISLAND CITY	GRAND CONCOURSE (East 175th St)	
NEWTOWN	HOE AVENUE	
SECOND AVENUE	HOLLIS	
WEST 18TH STREET	KENMORE PLACE	
WEST 50TH STREET	KINGSBRIDGE	
14TH AVENUE	LAURELTON	
14TH STREET	RICHMOND HILL	
77TH STREET	ROCKAWAY AVENUE	
ALBEMARLE ROAD	THAYER STREET	
ASTORIA	TRATMAN AVENUE	
CLINTON AVENUE	WEST STATEN ISLAND	
EAST 56TH STREET	AVENUE I	
FLUSHING	BELLE HARBOR*	
FOREST HILLS	CITY ISLAND	
JAMAICA	CORONA	
MANHATTAN AVENUE	FAR ROCKAWAY	
TIEBOUT AVENUE	JFK AIRPORT	
TROY AVENUE	LIBERTY AVENUE	
VARICK STREET	NORTH JAMAICA	
WEST 176TH STREET	NORTH STATEN ISLAND	
WILLIAMSBURG		

<sup>\*</sup> Belle Harbor was grandfathered pursuant to Verizon's application in Docket No. 14-136. Verizon now seeks to discontinue the relevant services in Belle Harbor consistent with the terms of this application.

# **EXHIBIT B**



Verizon August 21, 2017

One Verizon Way, VC22W464 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Business Name Billing address 1 Billing Address 2 Billing Address 3 City, State Zip

## **RE: Discontinuation of FCC Special Access DS0 Services in NYC**

Dear Valued Customer, Account Number:

Verizon is in the process of upgrading NYC wire centers from copper to all-fiber facilities. (Please see **Attachment 1** for the list of NYC offices.) As part of that program we must take steps to limit the number of circuits that are provisioned over the existing copper infrastructure. To that end, we plan to grandfather and eventually discontinue the following Interstate Special Access services in NYC Burroughs:

**Voice Grade Service** which provides voice frequency transmission capability in the nominal frequency range of 300 to 3000 Hz. Voice Grade Service is further described in Verizon's FCC Tariff No. 11, Sec. 7.2.3.

**WATS Access Line Service** which provides voice frequency transmission capability for toll-free calling in a limited geographic area. WATS Access Line Service is further described in Verizon's FCC Tariff No. 11, Sec. 7.2.10.

**Digital Data Service** which provides duplex transmission of synchronous serial data at the rate of 2.4, 4.8, 9.6, 56 kbps. Digital Data Service is further described in Verizon's FCC Tariff No.11, Sec. 7.2.8.

**DIGIPATH Digital Service II** which provides a channel for the simultaneous transmission of digital data at the rate of 2.4, 4.8, 9.6, 19.2, 56 or 64 kbps. DIGIPATH Digital Service II is further described in Verizon's FCC Tariff No.11, Sec 7.2.11.

According to our records, you currently subscribe to one of the services referenced above.

This letter is being sent to inform you of our plans for service discontinuation and urge you to begin making arrangements to migrate applications that use these services to an alternative service or carrier.

**On or after December 15, 2017**, subject to approval from the FCC, Verizon will stop accepting orders from *new* customers for these services if the circuit requested will originate or terminate in a NYC office.

Customers, who already subscribe to these services within a specified NYC location, may retain their service and conduct circuit moves, additions and changes through the first half of 2018.

On or after July 1, 2018, again subject to FCC approval, existing subscribers will no longer be able to purchase additional circuits for these services if they will originate or terminate in a NYC office. Moves and changes to existing circuits will also not be allowed. In addition, no service term-commitments will be renewed or extended.

Verizon will begin disconnection of these circuits on or after **September 2, 2019**, again subject to FCC approval. The timing for disconnection of *your* service(s) will depend on our schedule for completing the fiber-optic transition in your area. <u>Verizon will provide you 90 days advance notice of the actual date for your service disconnection</u>.

Modifications in service offerings for customers with existing contracts are subject to the terms of their contract or of the tariff.

Please use this interim period to review the application(s) for which you are currently using the aforementioned services and determine what alternative service or carrier you may wish to migrate these applications to, prior to the disconnect of your current service. We are happy to work with you to find alternative solutions. Verizon offers several alternatives to these services that may suit your needs, including:

- Fiber-based voice services
- Fios Internet Service
- Switched Ethernet Service
- Private Internet Protocol Service
- DS1 Service
- Machine-to-Machine Services through Verizon or Verizon Partner Program
- LTE

We value your business and look forward to helping you realize the benefits that our advanced offerings can unlock for you. Please contact your Verizon Account Manager to discuss alternative solutions.

Sincerely, Verizon

On behalf of:

Verizon New York Inc. 140 West Street New York, NY 10007 FCC Required Notice: The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service (or reduction or impairment) unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Verizon New York Inc. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance (or reduction or impairment) upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

#### **ATTACHMENT 1**

**AVENUE U** 

**EAST 79TH STREET** 

**EAST 97TH STREET** 

**SOUTH STATEN ISLAND** 

**WEST 36TH STREET** 

**BRIDGE STREET** 

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